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Penkovsky's Fellow Spy Hails His Service to West

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By MAX FRANKEL

Oleg V. Penkovsky's service to the capitalist world—considerable while he lived and still unfinished in death—reached its logical culmination here yesterday.

The mysterious forces of espionage and the obvious forces of commerce joined to promote a book that purports to be the secret journal of Colonel Penkovsky, the West's best-placed Moscow spy in memory. Thus they produced yet another extraordinary chapter in an extraordinary but slippery tale.

With an expression of regret that the executed colonel was unfortunately "not with us," the publishers of the book, Doubleday & Co., presented the next-best pitchman, Greville Wynne, just 19 months out of a Soviet jail for his contact work with Penkovsky in 1961 and 1962.

Mr. Wynne, whose dark hair and curled mustache make him look a little like the actor Terry-Thomas in repose, showed a certain flair for dramatic narrative but, so as not to spoil his own, as yet unwritten book, held back most of his own story of seven years of "business" journeys in Communist Europe.

Penkovsky's Feat Praised

He was happy, however, to have flown the Atlantic to help drum up business for the Penkovsky papers, to be published Friday, because, he said, he



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Greville Wynne

wished to call attention to a courageous man, to his warning that the West "must show strength" to the Soviet Union and to the importance of their joint venture in espionage.

"If it hadn't been for Penkovsky, you would have had more than a blackout in this fine city," Mr. Wynne remarked. "Penkovsky saved a war, in my opinion."

The evidence for this judgment could not be drawn from Mr. Wynne or Frank Gibney,

the papers' editor, except for vague suggestions that Penkov-

sky passed along "very important" information during a time of crisis in Germany and Cuba. The judgment greatly exceeds even the most generous appreciation of Penkovsky ever heard in Washington.

At a news conference in the Doubleday offices, Mr. Wynne also hinted that he had gone to Moscow with the express purpose of appraising Penkovsky after the colonel had twice tried to make contact with Western intelligence. Soviet efforts to recruit Mr. Wynne for espionage and Western efforts to make their contacts appear like a back-market conspiracy, at worst, also figured somehow in the story. Mr. Wynne suggested, but he kept plugging his own book whenever the interview threatened to become interesting.

Neither Mr. Wynne nor Mr. Gibney said enough to dispel the widespread doubts about the origin of the Penkovsky journal. It is said to have been smuggled out of Moscow just before the colonel's arrest Oct. 22, 1962. Mr. Wynne said that, in more than 50 meetings with Penkovsky, the colonel never mentioned the secret diary by which he allegedly wanted one day to reveal and justify his treason to the world.

The book, called "The Penkov-

sky Papers," says nothing more about how it came to be published.

"Penkovsky" is a morbid, literal rendering of a final double-vowel in Russian under a transliteration system preferred by the United States Government, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

Without necessarily questioning that Penkovsky was the author of most of the book's anti-Soviet information, speculation and gossip, many Soviet specialists in Washington doubt that he actually duplicated many of his reports to the West in a secret diary. Some officials believe that British and American intelligence services created the memoir from the record of their three interrogations of Penkovsky in London and Paris during his 16-month career as a spy.

The C.I.A. is known to have checked the book "for security" and, according to Mr. Gibney, "took out a few things. I assume," Mr. Gibney said he had obtained the papers already translated from Peter Deriabin, a defector from Soviet intelligence, whose present job and whereabouts are secret.

Mr. Gibney would not describe the original manuscript except to say that it consisted of several hundred pages, mostly typewritten, plus pictures of Penkovsky and photocopies of personal documents, including his Communist party membership card, which appear in the book.